

Date Mailed April 18, 2000

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Northern States Power Company, Wisconsin, as a Gas Public Utility, for Authority to Construct Facilities and Provide Natural Gas Service in the Town of Kinnickinnic, St Croix County, Wisconsin	4220-CG-130
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Application of Midwest Natural Gas, Incorporated, as a Gas Public Utility, for Authority to Provide Natural Gas Public Utility Services in Sections 1 Through 18 of the Town of Kinnickinnic, St. Croix County, Wisconsin	3670-CG-114
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Application of St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Company, as a Gas Public Utility, for Authority to Provide Natural Gas Service in Sections 13 Through 36 of the Town of Kinnickinnic, St. Croix County, Wisconsin	5230-CG-102
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**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING,
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS,
AND ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE**

Northern States Power Company-Wisconsin (NSP-WI), as a gas public utility, filed an application with the Commission on December 22, 1999, to construct facilities and provide natural gas service in the Town of Kinnickinnic, St. Croix County, Wisconsin (the Town). A Notice of Proceeding was issued by the Commission on February 8, 2000. The application was designated docket 4220-CG-130.

NSP-WI stated that two residential customers located on the east side of East Boundary Road (90th Street) in the Town of Kinnickinnic, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, had requested natural gas service. East Boundary Road is the boundary between the Town of Kinnickinnic and the Town of Troy, St. Croix County. NSP-WI is authorized to serve portions of the Town of Troy in this area.

In a letter dated February 22, 2000, St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Company (St. Croix) expressed an interest in also providing natural gas service in the Town. St. Croix's authorized service territory borders much of the western and the entire southern boundary of the Town. Docket number 5230-CG-102 has been assigned to this request from St. Croix.

Dockets 4220-CG-130, 3670-CG-114, 5230-CG-102

Finally, Midwest Natural Gas Incorporated (Midwest), as a gas public utility, filed an application with the Commission on March 21, 2000, for authority to provide natural gas public utility services in the Town. That application has been docketed as 3670-CG-114. Midwest is authorized to serve in the Town of Warren, St. Croix County, which is directly north of the Town.

NSP-WI is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5), with its principal office at 100 North Barstow Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. NSP-WI is engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas to approximately 82,000 customers in 69 communities located in eleven counties in Wisconsin and two counties in Upper Michigan.

Midwest is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5), with its principal office in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Midwest is engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas to approximately 10,500 customers in the Cities of Arcadia, Galesville, Independence, Mondovi, Westby and Whitehall, and the Villages of Coon Valley, Eleva, Ettrick, La Farge, Roberts, St. Joseph Ridge, Somerset, Strum, Trempealeau and Viola, and adjacent areas in Buffalo, Trempealeau, Vernon, La Crosse, Monroe, Polk, and St. Croix Counties, Wisconsin.

St. Croix is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5), with its principal office in River Falls. St. Croix is engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas to approximately 5,000 customers in the Cities of Prescott, River Falls, the Towns of Clifton, River Falls, Pierce County, and the Cities of Hammond, River Falls, and the Town of Troy, St. Croix County.

The Commission hereby orders that it will jointly consider the requests of NSP-WI, St. Croix and Midwest, as consolidated docket numbers 4220-CG-130, 3570-CG-114, and 5230-CG-102.

Neither Midwest nor St. Croix has submitted applications that meet Commission filing requirements. In order to be considered concurrently with the NSP-WI complete applications from St. Croix and Midwest must be submitted to the Commission by April 28, 2000.

The Commission considers it necessary in order to carry out its duties to investigate the books, accounts, practices, and activities of Northern States Power Company - Wisconsin, St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Company, and Midwest Natural Gas Incorporated, as gas public utilities. The expenses incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to the investigation will be assessed against and collected from Northern States Power Company - Wisconsin, St. Croix Valley Natural Gas Company, and Midwest Natural Gas, Incorporated, as gas public utilities, under Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Adm. Code ch. PSC 5.

At this time, these applications are being considered as Type III actions under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). If upon review of the additional information that will be filed in these dockets, potential significant environmental consequences are identified, staff may prepare an environmental assessment.

Dockets 4220-CG-130, 3670-CG-114, 5230-CG-102

This is not a contested case but will be conducted according to the procedures for Class 1 proceedings as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3)(a).

Questions from the media may be directed to Jeffrey L. Butson, Public Affairs Director at (608) 267-0912.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Michael John Jaeger at (608) 267-2546.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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